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POLAND

Talks between the free trade union Solidarity and the regime continue today; neither side has confirmed a Polish press report that the union would be registered today.

The government is also concerned over stalemated negotiations with the new railroad workers' union which claims its workers are entitled to pay increases based on the Gdansk strike settlements. The union, associated with Solidarity, maintains that pay increases received in July and August do not count. A concession on this issue might well generate a new round of demands for costly pay increases.

Cardinal's Visit

Cardinal Wyszynski, who earlier this week met with Solidarity leaders and party leader Kania, yesterday arrived in Rome where he probably will confer with the Vatican on the Church's strategy in Poland's current crisis. Wyszynski's absence from Poland, planned for 15 days, suggests that the Church does not anticipate any dramatic developments in the immediate future.

Soviet Involvement

We still lack a convincing explanation for Soviet Politburo member Kirilenko's visit to Czechoslovakia on Wednesday. Kirilenko, who oversees industrial matters, is reported to have held talks with Czechoslovak leaders on "economic cooperation" and to have reviewed "topical" international issues--probably including Poland. Yesterday he visited Slovakia with the two Czechoslovak leaders who have been the most outspoken proponents of a hard line on Polish events.

Recent articles in TASS and *Pravda* have provided the first public signs that Moscow may be willing to accept some form of new trade unions in Poland, if they adhere strictly to the conditions set out by the Kania regime. The implicitly positive media comments contrast with the tough condemnation of the principle of independent trade unions carried by *Pravda* last month and the support for

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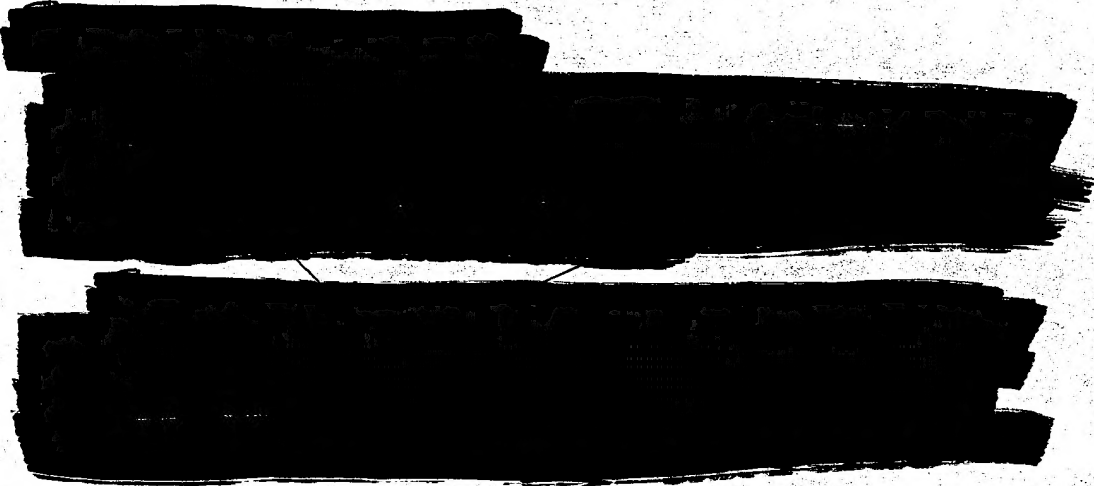
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the government-controlled unions voiced by the Soviet labor newspaper *Trud* early this month. The Soviet media have replayed recent harsh statements by East European leaders in order to maintain pressure on the Polish Government to ensure circumspect behavior by the free trade unions. 



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